

that I find that nearly all these specimens contain the opercular valves, but nearly all of them are more or less distorted by the action of some acid having dissolved the surface, and also that the sand has become imbedded in the valves: where these animals die from natural causes, and remain within the action of the waves, the opercular valves are almost invariably washed out. Although I have used the word "sudden," I would not insist upon this; for the movement might have been gradual, at the same time rapid enough for these animals to have been lifted up beyond the reach of the waves before they died.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Note on Testudo Phayrei.

To Dr. W. Francis, Editor of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

DEAR SIR,—About twelve days ago, Dr. J. Anderson, the Curator of the Indian Museum, asked me to compare the skull of *Testudo Phayrei*, Blyth, with Dr. J. E. Gray's figure of *Scapia Falconeri*. I did this, and I can assure Dr. Gray that there is no generic or specific difference traceable between his figure of *S. Falconeri* and the skull which Dr. Anderson had extracted from the smaller type specimen of Blyth's *Testudo Phayrei*. I do not think that the identity of the two (*Scapia Falconeri*, Gray, and *Testudo Phayrei*, Blyth) can be questioned for one moment.

It is strange to observe that Dr. Gray should have felt inclined to enter upon such speculations as he expressed in his letter on the subject in the June Number of the 'Annals,' which has just come to hand. Keeping to facts would have been more convincing, and less irritating. However, as Dr. Anderson is now preparing a drawing of the skull of *T. Phayrei*, and has, I believe, the intention of forwarding the same with his notes to the Zoological Society of London, I need not enter upon that subject any further.

Yours faithfully,

FERD. STOLICZKA.

Asiatic Society's Rooms, Calcutta.
July 15, 1871.

On a new gigantic Salamander (Sieboldia Davidiana, Blanch.) from Western China. By E. BLANCHARD:

In 1829, F. von Siebold made a discovery which excited a lively interest. The celebrated explorer of Japan found an animal of the salamander-type, the enormous size of which contrasts singularly with that of the other representatives of the group. The Japanese salamander, which attains a length of from a metre to a metre and a half, called for comparison with the famous fossil salamander of